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Letter dated 4 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued by the African Union Commission on 3 April 2018, on the completion of the first phase of opening the crossing corridors of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan by the African Union Border Programme (see annex).

Having brought this matter to your attention, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Magdi Ahmed Mofadal **Elnour**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

18-05448 (E) 100418

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Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release: African Union Border Programme completes the first phase of opening the crossing corridors of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone between the Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan

Addis Ababa, 3 April 2018

The African Union Border Programme (AUBP), through its technical team (AUBPTT), completed the first phase of the marking exercise by marking three of the ten crossing points along the corridors of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) between the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan, in line with the directives issued by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) as well as the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) on Sudan and South Sudan.

The marking of the corridors signifies an important milestone in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan. The main objective of the marking exercise is to make a conclusive technical determination about where the SDBZ center-line is on the ground to enable the parties to withdraw their forces within the zone and to facilitate the free movement of people and formal trade between the two countries.

The Commission of the African Union expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan for their engagement, cooperation and support in facilitating the marking of the three crossing points along the corridors of the SDBZ. The Commission wishes to assure the two countries of AU's commitment to assist them in marking the remaining border crossing points of the SDBZ.

The AUBP program was established as part of AU's efforts to enhance capacities for structural conflict prevention in AU member states. The main objective of the African Union Border Programme is the promotion of peace, security and stability through its three pillars: Delimitation and demarcation of borders, cross-border cooperation and capacity building.